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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA

THE FIELD TRIP*

By T. C. STEPHENS

Omitting a graceful and prefatory prologue, it may be at once stated that the field trip is the starting point of an awakened interest in birds. It is not only the start, but also the sustaining stimulus. The outdoor life which goes along with bird study has many rewards. That the fresh air and exercise are beneficial to health, and that the development of close and critical observational power is a valuable mental discipline, may be passed with the mere suggestion.

One of the keenest delights to the beginner is the discovery that a great many kinds of birds are more or less constant in their preference for a certain sort of locality in which to live. Some species are found only in woods, while others remain in open country; some frequent the shallow shores of water-ways, while others hide in the vegetation of swamps and marshes. So these peculiar localities, distinguished chiefly by the character of the vegetation, are called the *habitats* of the life-forms found therein. When one becomes somewhat familiar with the habits and habitats of the various families of birds, one's field work becomes better systematized, and there is much less loss of effort.

Since the greatest incentive to bird study arises in the enjoyment of the trip into the woods and fields, and the discovery of new birds not known before, and the final success in identification, we will first consider how the field trip may be made most productive of results.

It is well for beginners to accompany experienced observers and to have some species pointed out, and to learn what kind of marks and characters are relied upon to identify the various species. It is never advisable, however, for a large number of people to work together, for there is much probability that some will want to talk, and others will want to travel too rapidly at the wrong time. A person going alone will probably see and learn more; but two or three who are accustomed to work together will enjoy each other's company without much interference. Ladies may prefer to go in small groups rather than alone, because of some timidity.

It goes without saying, of course, that all field work must be done on foot, although conveyances will take the city dweller to the vicinity of his favorable haunts when he might not otherwise be able to go. When actual work is to be done all movement must be done on foot. One who is not fond of walking should not aspire to become an ornithologist.

The method of approach will vary with the type of ground surface, and the species under observation. Some species, like the kinglets and the chickadees, will allow direct and unconcealed approach. Others can be approached only by skilful stalking. Sometimes it becomes necessary to crawl for a distance in order to see without frightening away the quarry. Again one must wait in concealment for the birds to pass by. Under any circumstances one must avoid quick movements. In approaching any bird be careful not to swing the arms or sway the body. Do not allow the clothing to be blown about in the wind—keep the coat buttoned. In the woods the rustling of the leaves or the breaking of twigs underfoot is sufficient to drive many ground birds ahead of the trampler.

*Good advice is always timely. We believe this article will prove very useful to our readers because of the clear manner in which certain important points are discussed. It was first published in 'Iowa Conservation' in 1919, and is reprinted by kind permission of the author. Incidentally, Dr. Stephens was one of the founders of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and has long been prominent in Iowa ornithology.—ED.

Dress. The clothing worn by the student has more to do with success than one might think. It is quite generally agreed that bright colors, such as red and white, and even black, are conspicuous in the fields and woods. The neutral shades are best; and so gray and brown are good, while khaki is perhaps the most generally used. A small, narrow-brimmed hat is better than one with a broad brim, and the brim should be flexible to permit the easy use of the field glass. Ladies should discard the usual ornamentation from the hat which is used in field work. No article of clothing is more important than the shoes. Soft and comfortable shoes, always with low heels, will make a pleasant and profitable trip possible. Of course, one must often be somewhat proficient in forecasting the weather, in order to be appropriately dressed for it.

Time. Some birds, like the water-fowl and shore-birds, may be as easily observed late in the day as early; and this may be true also, to some extent at least, of many land birds. But as a rule the latter are more active in the early morning and forenoon, when they are feeding. And they are also most likely to be singing in the early morning. So, in general, the best time to study birds is in the morning—from daylight onward. Of course, after nesting is well under way this is not so important, for they have ceased singing, and their feeding activity is more prolonged.

IDENTIFICATION

The first necessity in field work is the ability to recognize and identify the various species of birds. The beginner, in nearly every case, is bound to make a large percentage of error. This will be due to several circumstances. The novice usually lacks the power of accurate observation and trained discrimination. He also lacks the knowledge of what it is possible to see, as against what is entirely an improbability. One of the most gratifying results of bird study is the consciousness on the part of the student of the development of a change in mental attitude, including a keener power of observation and a more critical discrimination between fact and supposition. These mental habits, once acquired, will be applied not only in bird study, but in all other individual experiences as well. These statements will be readily appreciated by those who have taken the training.

The question of validity of field identification is a rather difficult one, of course. This may be especially true if the student becomes ambitious to publish his records, or if, in later years, his note-books come into the possession of another person. And if one keeps note-books at all he should always keep in mind the possibility that they may at some time fall into the hands of another who might be tempted to use them for scientific data. Every care should be taken, therefore, to exclude all doubtful identifications.

How then may the beginner judge as to the accuracy of his field identifications? This question has been discussed by Mr. Chapman in 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. IV, 1902, p. 166; Vol. XI, 1909, pp. 37 and 91), and the following rules are laid down for the acceptance of unusual records:

"(1) Experience in naming birds in nature, and familiarity, at least with the local fauna. (2) Observation with a good field or opera glass. (3) Opportunity to observe the bird closely and repeatedly with the light at one's back. (4) A detailed description of the plumage, appearance, actions, and notes (if any) of the bird, written while it is under observation. (5) Examination of a specimen of the supposed species to confirm one's identification." This latter examination may be subsequently made in a museum or collection.

These tests may assist one in guarding himself against error, although by their careful fulfillment one may utterly fail to convince

another who has had longer or wider experience. The beginner must be prepared to meet skepticism and rebuffs without becoming discouraged.

After all, in the matter of scientific credibility the personal equation cannot be entirely excluded, however much it may be desired to do so. One should, therefore, endeavor to make his observations dispassionately and without preconception, and to make statements conservatively and deliberately.

The Tools. The tools of the ornithologist in the field are a bird glass, the note-book, and, if a beginner, some sort of guide or key. So far as the writer is aware only one pocket guide showing all of the birds in color has been published in this country. This is a very practical help to anyone who is not pretty well up in the professional class. A careful comparison of the bird at the time of observation with a good colored plate might possibly be accepted in lieu of the fifth of Dr. Chapman's tests.

The writer is rather disposed to discourage anyone from attempting bird study without some sort of field glass. At any rate one is very greatly handicapped indeed without one. An opera glass will do, of course, but a field glass is usually more satisfactory even though it may not have any greater magnification. The ordinary bird glass magnifies from three to four diameters; and one enlarging more than this is likely to be too large and heavy for such use.

It is necessary to use considerable care in selecting a glass, and it would be well to secure the assistance of some one who has had experience in the use of one. It is quite important to choose one which is built to the "pupillary distance" that will fit the eyes of the person who is to use it. When this is done the observer will look through the glass into a single round field; otherwise, he will see two overlapping fields, which may result in causing eye strain. Some field glasses are hinged so as to be adjustable for any pupillary distance. None of the cheaper glasses are corrected for chromatic aberration, and this means that the periphery of the field will show rings of various colors which may at times be confused with the colors of birds. This cannot be overcome and one must put up with it or buy a more expensive glass.

Of course, the bird glass *par excellence* is the prism binocular, which is now made by several large concerns. Among those which the writer has used none equal the Goerz "Pagor" in definition, brilliancy of illumination, and compactness. No glass should be selected for bird work which enlarges more than eight diameters. Opinions will vary as to the relative merits of the six-power and eight-power glass. No doubt along the coast and large bodies of water the eight-power glass will be preferable. But it must always be borne in mind that as the magnifying power increases the size of the field decreases. A six-power glass gives ample magnification for the study of small birds in the tree tops, and the larger field very greatly facilitates locating the bird as it flits about among the branches.

A pocket note-book should always be carried in the field. A careful entry should be made for each trip, giving date, locality, weather conditions, and such additional information as length of time out, distance covered, persons in the company, etc. Then a record should be made of each species definitely identified, either by eye or ear. It is not sufficient merely to record each species observed, but the number of individuals of each species should be given either by actual count or by estimate.

The writer ventures to offer a few suggestions to those who may wish to work in small groups. While they may seem superfluous to many, yet they are the outcome of several years of class teaching, and if they

are carefully observed from the beginning much difficulty and annoyance may be avoided.

RULES IN THE FIELD

1. Keep with the company; do not walk a rod or so ahead, for by so doing the bird may be frightened away before all have seen.

2. Do not ask to borrow a friend's field glass—it may be the particular moment when he wishes to use it. Every one going into the field should have his own glass constantly at his service. If a friend is good enough to lend his glass, return it promptly.

3. If your companion stops to listen, stop also; because your steps will make enough noise to interfere with his hearing and might also frighten the bird away.

4. Loud talking, or talking of any kind at times, is detrimental to efficient bird study, and may annoy your companion who wishes to hear and see.

5. Use care in walking so as to avoid rustling leaves and breaking twigs. Such slight noises will scare away certain kinds of birds.

6. Never tear down a fence to get through. Leave the gates as you find them.

BIRDS OF THE BACKBONE STATE PARK

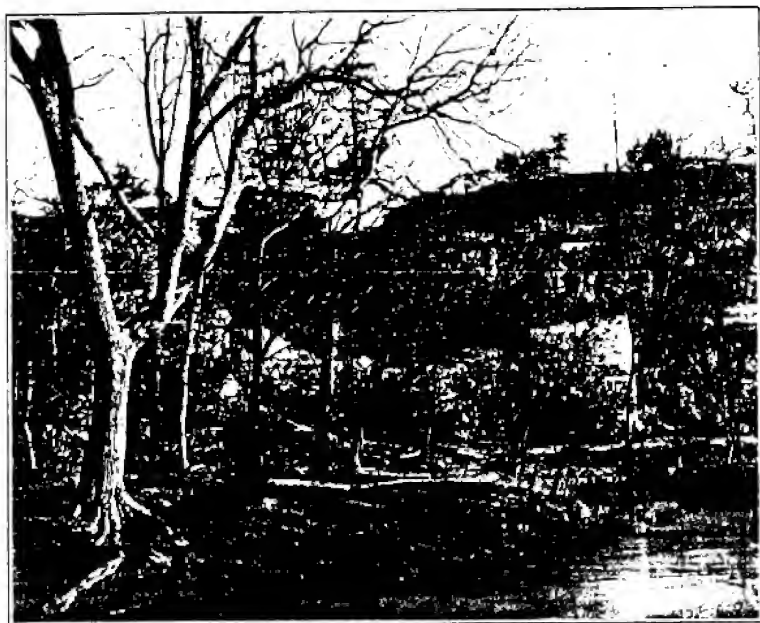
By FRED J. PIERCE

The Backbone State Park is an area of some 1300 acres located in the northwestern corner of Delaware County, Iowa. It is traversed by the Maquoketa River, and the topography is of a very scenic character, consisting of high, rugged cliffs and wooded hills. A narrow ridge of rock extending through the southern part of the park is called the "Devil's Backbone" and has given the park its name. For nearly a half century northeastern Iowa residents have gone to this area for picnic and pleasure trips. In the old days the place was known as "The Rocks", and it was a genuine wilderness of great interest. Although the State's taking over the region for a park will assure perpetuity, it is to be regretted that it has been so thoroughly modernized and developed. An elaborate system of highways, trails and other means of access has been worked out, while the new artificial lake will further change the original aspect of the park.

The following list of 102 species of birds is based upon some 30 trips in the park by the writer during nine different months of the year, during the period 1923-1934. The Ruffed Grouse is doubtless gone forever, and the Pileated Woodpecker may not return. As the park changes form, variations in its bird life are to be expected. This list is entirely my own. Various other species have been seen by other observers in this region but are not included here. My migration data are not complete. The park is very near the border of Buchanan County, whose birds and their migration have been fully covered in my paper in the 'Wilson Bulletin', XLII, 1930, pp. 253-285. With this fact in mind, migration dates are omitted in the present list.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Ruffed Grouse, former resident, one record, Dec. 23, 1923	Northern Blue Jay
Northern Barred Owl	Eastern Crow
N. Pileated Woodpecker, three records: May 21, 1931; Sept. 21 and Dec. 26, 1932	Black-capped Chickadee
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse, five records, 1930, 1931 and 1934
Eastern Hairy Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Cardinal
	Eastern Goldfinch



A SCENE IN BACKBONE STATE PARK

Looking toward the ridge or "Backbone." Another view of the park appears in 'Iowa Bird Life,' II, 1932, p. 34.

SUMMER RESIDENTS

Eastern Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, nest found
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 17, 1932, but later deserted
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Yellow-throated Vireo
E. Belted Kingfisher, sometimes winters	Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Flicker, sometimes winters	Eastern Warbling Vireo
Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler
Northern Crested Flycatcher	Oven-bird
Eastern Phoebe	Northern Yellow-throat
Eastern Wood Pewee	American Redstart
Rough-winged Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
Western House Wren	Eastern Cowbird
Catbird	Scarlet Tanager
Brown Thrasher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Robin	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Bluebird	Red-eyed Towhee
	Eastern Field Sparrow
	Eastern Song Sparrow

SUMMER RESIDENTS NEAR EDGE OF PARK

(Often seen within the park but nesting outside of it.)

Eastern Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Barn Swallow
Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, may nest in park occasionally	Purple Martin
Marsh Hawk	Bobolink
Eastern Bob-white	Eastern Meadowlark
Killdeer	Western Meadowlark
Spotted Sandpiper	Dickcissel
Eastern Nighthawk	English Sparrow
	Eastern Vesper Sparrow

WINTER RESIDENTS

Eastern Purple Finch	Slate-colored Junco
Northern Pine Siskin, occasional	Eastern Tree Sparrow

TRANSIENT VISITANTS

Great Blue Heron	Cedar Waxwing
Canada Goose, Dec. 23, 1923	Blue-headed Vireo
Mallard, Dec. 23, 1923	Black and White Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Tennessee Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk, Dec. 23, 1923;	Orange-crowned Warbler
flock of 140 migrating on Sept. 21,	Magnolia Warbler
1932*	Myrtle Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Least Flycatcher	Cerulean Warbler, May 24, 1931
Olive-sided Flycatcher, May 21, 1931;	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Aug. 13, 1934	Bay-br. Warbler, May 17, 1932
Brown Creeper	Black-poll Warbler
Eastern Winter Wren	N. Pine Warbler, Sept. 4, 1925
Wood Thrush	Grinnell's Water-Thrush
Eastern Hermit Thrush	Mourning Warbler
Olive-backed Thrush	Wilson's Warbler
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Canada Warbler
Willow Thrush	White-throated Sparrow
E. Golden-crowned Kinglet	Lincoln's Sparrow
E. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Swamp Sparrow

GENERAL NOTES

Notes from Kossuth County.—The migrants in this locality present the greatest variety of species, although in the summer of 1934 I saw more than the usual number of residents because available water here attracted many during the drought.

We have a pair of Migrant Shrikes which every year nest in a cemetery near my home. This cemetery with its evergreens affords a comparatively peaceful place for rearing their young.

I had a puzzling experience with a pair of Yellow Warblers in our raspberry patch. On June 23 my attention was distracted by the female warbler. I decided there must be a nest near, and search disclosed it in a raspberry bush. It contained two grayish-brown eggs. The next day there were three eggs. I picked berries here almost every day for a week, during which the old birds always kept a certain distance. A spell of rainy weather followed, and on July 5 I noticed that the nest was empty. The period of incubation would have been less than two weeks. The rain was not so severe as to damage the nest. It is possible that the pair built another nest elsewhere. I found a nest of a pair of Brown Thrashers and observed them during the period of hatching their eggs. After the young were hatched, I chanced to walk under the nest. I found a young thrasher on the ground and replaced it in the nest. There was also another, larger young one in the nest. A half hour later the same youngster was on the ground but this time was dead.

Among the birds seen here this year were Northern Yellow-throat, Prothonotary Warbler, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Purple Martin, Chimney Swift, Dickcissel, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove, Towhee, Chipping and Song Sparrows.—(MISS) ADA FIENE, Lotts Creek, via Lone Rock, Iowa.

*See "A Flight of Broad-winged Hawks," by Charles J. Spiker, 'Wilson Bulletin', XLV, 1933, p. 79.

The Increasing Starling Army in Iowa.—The Starling is spreading into all parts of Iowa, and if the present rate of increase is continued, this bird will soon rival the House Sparrow in numbers. The bird has been found in all but a few of the counties in the state. The extreme northwest portion of the state has not had other than a few scattered birds as yet, but is destined to be invaded in the near future by flocks of these birds.

During the past fall, flocks of Starlings have been seen in many places and a few of these are mentioned below. A flock of more than 400 birds was seen near Fort Madison. Large flocks of Starlings were seen near Elkader, Cedar Rapids and Marshalltown. Many flocks of from 75 to 200 were seen throughout southern Iowa from the Mississippi River west to Adair County.

The real concentration of the birds, however, is in Wapello County, near the city of Ottumwa. At this place a Starling roost was found and the incoming birds were watched one evening for about two hours. There were a dozen or more flocks of birds in bunches of 100 to 200 birds, then came a flock which must have contained 700 or 800 birds and finally a big flock, which must have contained more than 2000 birds. From the above reports it is apparent that it is only a question of time until Iowans will have become very well acquainted with this hardy bird.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

Spring Migrants in Southeastern Iowa.—On April 26, 1934, I saw a flock of 12 Hudsonian Godwits near the Washington City Gun Club property, Conesville Marsh, Louisa County. There were two beautiful males and the rest were females. I studied them closely. On May 4, 1934, I found six Gloven Plovers, two males and four females, at the Conesville Marsh. They were in company with a good sized flock of Pectoral Sandpipers. I approached within ten feet of the birds. I saw a King Rail at this marsh on May 24, 1934.

Among the 1934 migrants seen near Iowa City were large numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, May 11; Olive-backed Thrush, May 15; Tennessee Warbler, May 11; Mourning Warbler, May 9; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, April 29. Later in the season Nick Cuthbert discovered a Gnatcatcher's nest, and with Mr. Cuthbert I watched the two birds on the nest.—JOHN RIPLEY FORBES, Iowa City, Iowa.

An Injured Least Bittern.—On May 13, 1934, Eldridge Ellis brought me a female Least Bittern which seemed to be paralyzed. It had no broken bones, yet it could not stand up, walk or fly and did not seem to be able to swallow. We fed it tadpoles by opening its beak and letting them slip down. If the tadpole remained in the forward part of the beak, the bird could not swallow it. Mr. Ellis found the bird near his home on Cutler Street, Waterloo, several days before he brought it to me, and it lived only four days after I received it. I tried to discover its trouble when I mounted it, but could find no clue to the apparent paralysis.—JOHN BLIESE, Waterloo, Iowa.

A Nest of the Baltimore Oriole.—The main line of the C. M. and St. P. railway between Kansas City and Cedar Rapids passes through the west part of Sigourney, Iowa, approximately parallel with Stone Street. For a distance of one block the right-of-way of the railway and the street occupy the same ground, which is thereby made impassable for vehicles.

Within this block and on the west side of the railway, about 40 feet from the rails, are located the county jail and an ancient residence. Between these buildings and the tracks stand two large, wide-spreading maple trees and a good sized evergreen. On the east side and

about the same distance from the tracks are located two old residences and two great, old shade trees whose immense branches reach across the tracks and overlap and mingle with some of the branches from the west side, forming an enormous canopy or arch through which trains of cars of every size and description pass at all hours of the night or day.

There are hundreds of similar shade trees in every direction, yet a pair of Baltimore Orioles decided in 1933 to construct their wonderful nest in this very locality. They chose a pendant branch almost in front of the jail and exactly over the center of the railway tracks for the support of their nest. It was placed at an elevation of ten or twelve feet above the smoke-stacks and car tops of passing trains.

The fact that Baltimore Orioles show an inclination to place their nests in noisy public places seems to indicate that they feel themselves safer and more secure (as in this case) within the grime, smoke, sparks and noise of passing trains than in many quiet and secluded places which they might easily choose. They attend to all their duties of housekeeping, raise their families, and live in such places without getting their beautiful plumage perceptibly tattered or tarnished, going on bravely to meet the future, chanting their cheerful songs, and pursuing insects in the tree tops.—E. D. NAUMAN, Sigourney, Iowa.

Notes from Central Iowa.—Two Prairie Chickens were noted October 19 and five on October 21, 1933; on January 19, 1934, a flock of 25 was seen.

The first Prairie Horned Larks of the season were seen January 6, 1934. After February 20 they were common. On March 20, a nest with four eggs was discovered. The only 1933-34 winter date for the Meadowlark was January 20, 1934.

A Short-eared Owl was seen on January 3, 1934. I see this bird here only rarely.

The first Brewer's Blackbird of the season was noted April 19, 1934; a flock of them on April 27 included one male Yellow-headed Blackbird. A flock of 15-20, on April 28, were the last Brewer's Blackbirds seen.

My first positive record of the Starling was on May 15, 1934, when two were observed through a 6x glass.

A pair of Upland Plovers have been seen almost every time I have been afield, from May 6 to July 17 (the time of writing).

I made a trip to Little Wall Lake and Goose Lake, near Jewell, on May 24. The predominant birds were Red-wings, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black Terns, and Black-crowned Night Herons. I visited the nesting colony of Night Herons on a high, wooded island on Goose Lake. Many herons were flying about, making a great outcry. Considerable numbers of shore birds were also present at these lakes.—HENRY BIRKELAND, Nevada, Iowa.

(Miss Kate E. LaMar visited Little Wall Lake during July and reported seeing 200 or more Black-crowned Night Herons and 21 Great Blue Herons.—Ed.)

American Egret at Storm Lake.—On July 26, 1934, at Heron Lake in Minnesota, about 40 miles beyond the Okoboji lakes, I observed two American Egrets posing in the tall willows that line the east shore at the southern extremity of the lake. At Storm Lake, Iowa, August 10, 1934, I found four egrets feeding in the shallow water of the sanctuary. Although men building a bridge there were continually setting off blasts of dynamite, these birds never left their business of fishing. E. F. Schuenke, deputy game warden, told me that they were there a greater part of the summer.—FRED. G. BLISS, Washta, Iowa.

American Egret in Black Hawk County.—On July 19, 1934, a young farmer living about two miles south of Hudson telephoned us that he had seen a strange white bird at a pond in one of his fields. We drove out at once and were able to approach within 50 feet of the bird, which proved to be an American Egret. The light was excellent and we were perfectly satisfied with our view of the bird.—MRS. ROBERT I. BORDNER, Hudson, Iowa.

American Egret in Van Buren County.—During the last of August and in September, 1934, American Egrets and Great Blue Herons were on the Des Moines River in numbers at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. They were especially numerous above the Pittsburgh bridge. The water in the river was low and in many places quite shallow, making it easy for them to get food. Eleven egrets were in view at one time, as were nearly 50 Great Blue Herons. Egrets are reported to be increasing, and their presence in numbers this year along the Des Moines River indicates it.—J. WILBUR DOLE, Fairfield, Iowa.

Franklin's Gulls on Storm Lake.—A flock of Franklin's Gulls, estimated to contain at least 100,000 individuals, was seen by the writer on Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, September 21, 1934. This 3000-acre lake was seemingly entirely covered with these birds. Local residents computed the flock at "millions."—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Des Moines, Iowa.

Our Robins.—One snowy morning early in the spring of 1934, I looked out of the kitchen window and saw a female Robin eating bread from my feeding shelf. Her feathers were ruffled and some were gone, which made her look old, so we called her Grandma.

She made several trips a day to the shelf and drove away any other Robins that tried to patronize the shelf. When it came time to build a nest I noticed that Grandma was trying to build her nest on the upper ledge of a window in the garage. The space was too small, so I nailed a cigar box to the ledge. It was not very long until Grandma and her new husband were making trips to the box with sticks and strips of white cloth and yarn that I had put out for them. Nest building started in earnest.

In due time there were four blue eggs in the nest, out of which two spotted-breasted babies were reared. The family became very tame, as I fed them all summer. Just at present they are enjoying the grapes in the yard. Other birds that are also enjoying the grapes are Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Cardinals, Blue Jays and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The phlox and physastegia in the flower garden attract many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.—(MISS) DOROTHY JONES, Davenport, Iowa, September 12, 1934.

American Magpie and other Birds.—On October 6, 1934, beside a little used road northeast of Galva in Sac County, I observed two Magpies feeding beneath a plum thicket. A large house cat stalked and made an unsuccessful attack on these birds, to which they retaliated with several scathing remarks.

Later, on the same day at the Storm Lake sanctuary, among the usual birds were five White Pelicans and a Herring Gull. These pelicans spend much of their time preening on the muskrat houses. Their powerful, gliding flight with long black primary feathers spread wide and curved upward is worth waiting hours to behold.

On September 29, a Pigeon Hawk flew by into an open veranda where the sparrows he was pursuing escaped into a honeysuckle bush. The little hawk selected a drooping elm branch for a perch and glared down at me for a long minute before flying away.

Seven Sandhill Cranes rested for a short time at Storm Lake on October 14, 1934. They were seen by E. F. Schuenke, a deputy game warden.—FRED G. BLISS, Washta, Iowa.

Mockingbirds in Jefferson County.—Mockingbirds were seen in Jefferson County in 1934, the first time since 1902. They were seen in four different locations, though none within six miles of Fairfield or of the territory of another pair of Mockingbirds. William McClain, who spent the greater part of the summer on highways of this county, reported the presence of the birds. He had previously lived in the South where Mockingbirds are common, and he of course recognized the birds at once. On July 5, he took Professor Welty and the writer to a locality some six miles northwest of Fairfield where we saw two. I observed them again on July 8, through a field glass at a distance of 75 or 100 feet, and found that one was an old bird and the other a young in juvenile plumage. We thought it probable that a second brood would be reared. We endeavored to locate their nest but were unsuccessful. P. S. Junkin reports having seen four at a later date.

As the territory of all the Mockingbirds seen was along highways in locations not frequented by bird students, I think it probable that the birds were in this county in previous years but were unobserved. In fact, one farmer reports their having nested near his home for the past two years. We have no definite knowledge of their migration, either arrival or departure.—J. WILBUR DOLE, Fairfield, Iowa.

Additional Observations of Harlan's, Krider's, and the Western Red-tailed Hawk in Iowa.—An article by the writer containing notes on the 1933 fall migration of Red-tailed Hawks in Iowa was published in 'Iowa Bird Life', IV, 1931, pp. 18-19. These additional observations were made during the spring of 1934.

HARLAN'S HAWK. A second-year bird was seen one mile south of Rembrandt, Buena Vista County, March 19. An excellent opportunity was allowed to note the dark plumage on the body, the spotting on the under-lining of the wing, the dark gray tail, and the lack of feathering on the tarsus.

One was seen two miles southwest of Perry, Dallas County, March 29. Another was observed south of Brough, Dallas County, on the same date. A very dark bird seen that day east of Adel was either *harlanii* or *calurus*.

On April 3 one in the light phase was seen southwest of Belmond, Wright County. The back was dark, the underparts light, while the tail was almost whitish, with no indication of the rusty color. On the same date one was noted three miles east of Twin Lake in Hancock County, and a pair was seen one mile east of the lake.

A single bird was seen in Dickinson County, April 6.

A bird in typical plumage was observed by Logan J. Bennett and the writer south of Wallingford, Emmet County, April 13.

One was noted in Cerro Gordo County, April 20. In addition to the dark-plumaged underparts and the gray tail this bird showed a light bar across the wing about two-thirds of the way towards the tip.

KRIDER'S HAWK. A splendid example of this hawk was seen near Swan Lake, Emmet County, March 23. The underparts were entirely white, the back had some white in the plumage, and the tail was mostly white. When first seen it was thought to be an eagle because of the white head and tail.

One was seen south of Burt, Kossuth County, on March 28.

Another was observed in Hancock County, April 20.

WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. On April 3, an adult of this form was observed south of Garner, Hancock County. The entirely dark plumage with bright rufous tail was studied at leisure as the bird perched on a fence post nearby.

A bird seen April 17, near Four Mile Lake in Emmet County was probably this subspecies. It was in the first year plumage, all feathers being of a chocolate brown.—**PHILIP A. DU MONT**, Des Moines, Iowa

Migration of Hawks in Story County.—

Fall, 1933:	No. seen
Red-tailed Hawk (Sept. 29 to Nov. 7),	13
American Rough-legged Hawk (Nov. 27 to Dec. 9),	8
Marsh Hawk (Sept. 30 to Nov. 27),	21
Unidentified species (Oct. 9 to Nov. 27),	26
Total	68
Spring, 1934:	
Red-tailed Hawk (March 13 to April 10),	10
American Rough-legged Hawk (Feb. 7 to March 1),	6
Marsh Hawk (March 14 to April 12),	9
Unidentified species (Feb. 1 to May 2),	8
Total	33

—**HENRY BIRKELAND**, Nevada, Iowa.

Notes on Iowa Birds during the Summer of 1934.—**AMERICAN EGRET.** A flock of 36 was seen on June 24, on Green Bay, northeast of Ft. Madison, Lee County. W. L. Harvey, a deputy warden, reported that a number of these birds had been present from late in April or early in May. They had frequently been noted since, feeding with the Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons. No nests were found. A single bird was observed in the marsh south of Elk Lake, Clay County, July 12.

REDHEAD. Twelve birds (of both sexes) were seen on the east end of High Lake, Emmet County, July 4.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK. One male and two females were observed on the east end of High Lake, July 4.

RUDDY DUCK. At least 20 adults were noted on the east end of High Lake, July 4. Logan J. Bennett found nests of this species and the Redhead in this locality during the present nesting season.

HOODED MERGANSER. A female was killed by W. F. Kubichek on one of the rearing ponds at Lake Wapello, Davis County, June 18, 1934. A female was noted by the writer on Welch Lake, Dickinson County, July 3.

SWAINSON'S HAWK. Two adults, apparently a mated pair, were seen gyrating over a hardwood grove, east of Gitchie Manitou State Park, in northwest Lyon County, July 1.

UPLAND PLOVER. One was noted in Washington County, June 17. This species was seen in Jefferson County on June 18, 1932, and during May, 1933.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. A single female was collected 8 miles southeast of Hawarden, Sioux County, July 1. Examination of the gonads proved this to be a non-breeding bird. Three of these birds were seen at the site of old Bancroft Lake, in northwest Kossuth County, on July 5.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. A flock of 11 was seen on Spirit Lake, July 3. At least 30 were noted on West Twin Lake, Hancock County, July 6.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Two birds were observed on Diamond Lake, Dickinson County, July 3.

LEAST SANDPIPER. Three of these birds were noted on Diamond Lake, July 3, and one on West Twin Lake, July 6.

DOWITCHER. A flock of 12 was seen on West Twin Lake, July 6, feeding with the Lesser Yellow-legs.

RING-BILLED GULL. An immature bird was noted on Green Bay, Lee County, June 24. A flock of eight birds was seen with the Franklin's Gulls on Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, July 3. All were in immature plumage.

FRANKLIN'S GULL. A flock of at least 120 birds was noted on Spirit Lake, July 3. It is pure speculation whether these represent non-breeding individuals or wanderers from the nesting grounds in Jackson County, Minnesota.

FORSTER'S TERN. These birds were noted on most of the lakes of the northwest, at least 50 being present on Spirit Lake, July 3, and 75 on West Twin Lake, in Hancock County, July 6.

LEAST TERN. On May 25, three were noted on Brown's Lake, Woodbury County, and one on Blue Lake, Monona County. On May 30, at least 12 of these birds were seen along the Missouri River in Monona County.

CASPIAN TERN. On June 3, four of these birds were seen on Lake Wapello, a new artificial lake in Davis County.

BLACK TERN. A pair was noted on Lilly Lake in the Amana Colony, Iowa County, June 17. By the end of the month migrant birds were seen at several points in southern Iowa.

BURROWING OWL. A pair was noted 5 miles west of Spencer, Clay County, May 24. One bird was seen there on July 12. A single bird was noted in Dewey's Pasture, a state-owned wild life breeding ground near Ruthven, Clay County, June 10. Burrowing Owls were noted in Sioux and Lyon counties on July 1. A pair of adults with 6 young were seen four miles southeast of Estherville, Emmet County, July 4. One was observed one mile northwest of Everly, Clay County, July 12.

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. Two were seen by the writer 5 miles north of Lakota, Kossuth County, May 22. On June 1, one was seen in Pocahontas County, and one was observed between Pomeroy and Rockwell City, Calhoun County. D. J. Bullock, of Des Moines, found one north of Bondurant, Polk County, June 16. On July 5, one was noted near Ledyard, Kossuth County. Many are noted from Emmet and Palo Alto Counties westward, and in the extreme northwest part of Lyon they appear to be equally numerous with the Eastern Kingbird.

TREE SWALLOW. A nesting pair was found at the east end of Green Bay, Lee County, June 25. The nest was located in an opening near the top of a fence post which was standing in several inches of water.

CLIFF SWALLOW. A nesting site containing from 275 to 300 nests was seen at Bluffton, Winneshiek County, July 11. The nests were grouped in three large blocks and attached near the top of the 200-foot perpendicular rock face along the Upper Iowa River. Numbers of the birds were noted.

MOCKINGBIRD. Two were seen near Belknap, Davis County, June 21. Another pair was observed north of Lorimor, Union County, June 29.

LARK SPARROW. This species has been noted during the breeding season in Lee, Davis, and Iowa Counties.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Des Moines, Iowa.

We are willing to publish all Iowa Christmas bird censuses not published in 'Bird-Lore.' The lists must be in before February first so that we can use them in our March issue.

MRS. ARTHUR J. PALAS

It is with extreme regret that we record the passing of Mrs. Arthur J. Palas, whose death occurred at Des Moines, November 18, 1934, following a ten-day illness of malaria fever with which she was stricken shortly after she and her husband returned from a trip through Florida and the South.

Mrs. Palas was a prominent member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union from its very beginning, and, with her husband, was one of its founders. Always keenly interested in the Union's welfare, she took part in all of its activities. Her interest in Iowa ornithology was deep-rooted and she furthered bird study and bird protection in all possible ways. Mrs. Palas seldom missed one of our meetings. From year to year we looked forward to meeting her, and to enjoying her company on the field trips. She possessed a great zest for bird-hunting, while keen eyes and discerning observational faculties made her records reliable. Her personality was enhanced by an unusually friendly nature, which, together with her sparkling repartee in conversation, won her countless friends. Truly, our organization has suffered a great loss—hers was a place that others can not fill.



We are indebted to the 'Des Moines Register' for the following biographical data:

"Born in Osage, Iowa, January 21, 1885, Mrs. Palas came to Des Moines at an early age and was educated in Des Moines schools. Following graduation from North High School she entered Drake University, where she was graduated in 1907. She then became a member of the University staff, teaching languages. She married in 1909 and in 1911 moved with Mrs. Palas to Elkader, Iowa, where they lived until 1921 before returning to Des Moines.

"Mrs. Palas was an active worker in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church and was past president of the Inter-denominational Missionary Council in Des Moines. She recently was elected to the national board of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Churches in America. She was also an active member of the Des Moines Audubon Society, of which she was a past president. . . . F. J. P.

"**Bird Portraits in Color**," by Thomas S. Roberts. Bird lovers will be glad to know that Dr. Thomas S. Roberts of the University of Minnesota has another bird book ready. This new book is a practical guide and a splendid companion piece for your field glass on expeditions anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains in northern United States and southern Canada.

Dr. Roberts has made it a handsome volume, using the same fine color plates that he used in "The Birds of Minnesota"; 92 in all, these plates are of exceptional accuracy and beauty, from paintings by six leading bird artists. They depict 561 major figures, representing 295 species, including juvenile and male and female, shown in their various phases of plumage and markings at different seasons. The text by Dr. Roberts adequately describes each species as to its size and color markings, its habits and range, its nest and eggs and its songs. A seven-page index is especially helpful because the popular names are given with the scientific names.

The book is published by the University of Minnesota Press, Min-

neapolis, at \$3.50 in cloth, \$2.50 in limp cloth, and \$1.50 for the pictures in portfolio with index but no text.—F. G. BLISS.

New Members.—David Damon, Ames; Miss Ada Fiene, Lone Rock; Prof. George R. Fowler, Ames; James R. Harlan, Des Moines; John A. Meyer, Holland; Gerald B. Spawn, Ames.

New Subscribers: O. S. Biggs, San Jose, Ill.; George W. H. von Burgh, Columbus, Wis.; Ed. S. Currier, Portland, Ore.; E. A. Doolittle, Painsville, Ohio; John O. Felker, St. Louis County, Mo.; Dr. George M. Sutton, Ithaca, N. Y.; R. B. Trouslot, Walnut Creek, Calif.; John R. Williams, Urbana, Ill.

Additional Permanent Files: Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago; Iowa State Library, Des Moines.

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Dr. Hendrickson suggests that each of you make an effort to get acquainted with the deputy game warden in your district and invite him to become a member of our organization. Several wardens are already members, and we should like to have others join us, as our interests are kindred and mutual benefits will be derived.

* * * *

Iowa members who attended the A. O. U. meeting in Chicago in October were: O. P. Allert, McGregor; Henry Birkeland, Nevada; Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Stephens and Mrs. Mary Bailey, Sioux City; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom, Ames; Mrs. Toni Wendelburg and P. A. DuMont, Des Moines.

* * * *

Dr. Mary Price Roberts, formerly of Iowa City, has taken a position as teacher and consulting psychologist in the schools at Grand Island, Nebraska.

* * * *

Free copies of Bailey's "Raptorial Birds of Iowa" (1918) are still available to Iowa residents. Requests should be made to the Iowa Geological Survey, Iowa City, Iowa.

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TO OUR MEMBERS

In closing another successful year we wish to thank you for your generous support and cooperation. You have made possible the publication of 'Iowa Bird Life' and are responsible for the healthy condition of our organization. We trust that you will continue with us during the coming year.

'Iowa Bird Life' is conducted on sound business principles. It pays its own way. There are no subsidies or reserve funds, and the magazine depends entirely on current income. We are giving you just as large a magazine as we can afford. Such undertakings are expensive. If you would have a larger 'Iowa Bird Life', help us to increase our membership. Tell your friends about us and show them the magazine. We are always glad to send sample copies to interested bird lovers.

Membership dues are payable January first. Help us to begin the new year with substantial funds by sending your dollar at once to Miss LaMar, at 1231 Thirty-ninth St., Des Moines. We shall appreciate your promptness and it will save postage and Miss LaMar's time in sending out due notices.

With best wishes for the Bird Year 1935,

Very sincerely,

THE OFFICERS.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

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